

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 6, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 93**

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### **Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chesbro, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)*

February 11, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 93, as amended, Buchanan. Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March 2014 as Drug Abuse Awareness Month in California, and encourage all citizens to

participate in prevention programs and activities and to pledge to  
“Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill.”

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, There were more deaths caused by drug overdoses  
2 in 2010 than traffic accidents among people 25 to 64 years of age;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 2010, drug overdoses in the United States of  
5 America caused 38,329 deaths and 22,134 of those deaths were  
6 from prescription drugs; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans 12  
8 years of age or older used an illicit drug or abused a prescription  
9 drug in the past month; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits  
11 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals, an increase  
12 of 98.4 percent since 2004; and

13 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs  
14 health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health care  
15 costs; and

16 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers  
17 now exceed more deaths than heroin and cocaine combined; and

18 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse  
19 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a  
20 doctor; and

21 WHEREAS, During the last seven National Prescription Drug  
22 Take Back Days, a total of 3.4 million pounds of medication were  
23 removed from circulation and potential diversion by the Drug  
24 Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its state, local, and tribal  
25 law enforcement, and community partners; and

26 WHEREAS, The 2013 National Drug Control Study listed four  
27 interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one of which was  
28 to provide safe drug disposal by increasing return and take-back  
29 programs. We support California acquiring a sustainably funded  
30 and well publicized statewide medication take-back system that  
31 is much more convenient to consumers than the current one-day  
32 events or disposal at hazardous waste facilities; and

33 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug  
34 Abuse, law enforcement, community-based organizations, alcohol  
35 and other drug service providers, and civic and business leaders  
36 coordinate Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities

1 in California to engage our citizens in demonstrating their  
2 commitment to prevention campaigns and education aimed at  
3 raising awareness about the abuse and misuse of prescription drugs,  
4 promoting prescription drug safe storing and disposal, and using  
5 medications only as prescribed; and

6 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based  
7 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and  
8 local governments, health care practitioners, and pharmacists in  
9 the state, and the general public will demonstrate their commitment  
10 to the prevention of prescription medication abuse by participating  
11 in activities intended to highlight local efforts during the month  
12 of March; and

13 WHEREAS, The Legislature supports April 26, 2014, as  
14 National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day as declared by the  
15 DEA, and encourage residents to locate their local collection site  
16 and safely dispose of their accumulated unwanted and unused  
17 prescription drugs; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby declare March  
20 2014, as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, and  
21 encourages all citizens to actively participate in prevention  
22 programs and activities, and to safely store and dispose of their  
23 medications on a continual basis, and to encourage all community  
24 members to pledge, “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill”; and  
25 be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
27 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.  
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30 **CORRECTIONS:**

31 **Heading—Coauthors—Page 1.**  
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